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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTH VIETNAM SOUTH OF THE
20TH PARALLEL

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30 July 1968

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 July 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Recent Activities in North Vietnam
South of the 20th Parallel

Summary

North Vietnam's efforts to expand and diversify its military and logistic capabilities continue unabated. All indicators of traffic movement were at high levels with observed watercraft activity apparently reaching record levels.

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More than 1,200 small watercraft were sighted south of the 19th Parallel, four times the weekly average observed since April 1968. Truck sightings were 25 percent above the weekly average since 1 April, [redacted] trucks destroyed were 40 percent above average.

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Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared jointly by the Office of Economic Research and the Office of Current Intelligence and was coordinated with the Director's Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs.

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Rail Activity

1. Railroad activity at the Thanh Hoa Railroad Yard north of the 19th Parallel continued at a high level, with a total of almost 230 pieces of rolling stock [redacted] the highest count observed [redacted] since the record high of 380 [redacted]. The rolling stock observed in this area included the small meter-gauge tram cars which are in use south of Thanh Hoa.

2. Rail traffic between Thanh Hoa and Vinh continued to be restricted south of the 19th Parallel by air attacks against the Vinh Railroad Yard and the railroad bridges at Dien Chau and Tam Da. As a result of these attacks, the North Vietnamese have had to divert considerable rail traffic to the highway and waterway systems south of the 19th Parallel. [redacted] supplies being transshipped in the Thanh Hoa rail yard to trucks and then transported to the Song Mai canal for movement on the waterways. Several truck convoys heading south from Thanh Hoa on Routes 1A and 115 [redacted]. More recently, water traffic south of the 19th Parallel has reached record levels.

Watercraft

3. [redacted] one of the highest levels of watercraft activity of the war during the past week. More than 1,200 watercraft were sighted south of the 19th Parallel, and an unquantified concentration of small watercraft, estimated [redacted] at between 800 to 900 small craft, was sighted along the coast of North Vietnam from Ron south to Quang Khe. Only about 350 watercraft per week had been previously reported south of the 19th Parallel since 1 April 1968. Much of the activity was near Quang Khe, an important transshipment area where material can be shipped along the coast toward the DMZ or southwest toward Laos via the Song Troc. The waterways around Vinh were also extremely active where many watercraft were apparently carrying POL, as airstrikes caused numerous POL fires and oil slicks.

Truck Traffic

4. Truck traffic and reported truck losses continued at high levels. As shown in the following tabulation, [] trucks were 25 percent above the weekly average noted since 1 April, and [] trucks destroyed or damaged were 40 percent above the weekly average:

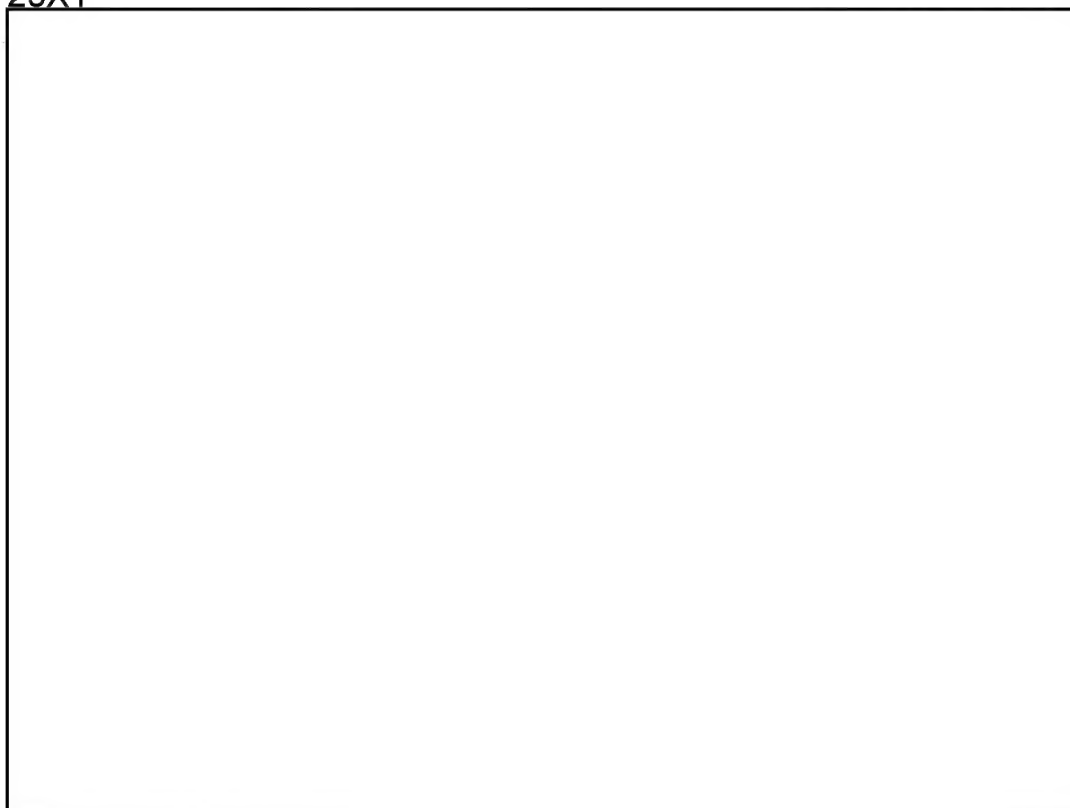
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Total Destroyed or Damaged</u>	<u>Effective Losses ^{a/}</u>
This week b/ (22-28 July)	898	186	87	273	162
Last week (15-21 July)	947	209	73	282	175
Weekly average (since 1 April)	717	121	73	194	109

a. Effective losses are computed by deflating reports of destroyed and damaged trucks -- by assuming that 75 percent of those reported destroyed and 25 percent of those reported damaged are actually destroyed and not returned to service.

b. Preliminary data.

Considerable traffic was noted south of the 18th Parallel where convoys of 50 trucks or more were sighted at night on Routes 1A and 101 in the vicinity of Quang Khe. Convoys of this size are infrequent in this area, especially along Route 1A, the last occurrences being in mid-June when similar concentrations were sighted near Mu Gia and along Route 137. The general trend in observed truck traffic since 31 March, although remaining at a relatively high level, has tended to be less concentrated, with reports of large convoys less frequent than during the previous quarters. Heavy traffic was also reported on Route 137, the current prime infiltration route leading into Southern Laos.

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Storage Areas

6. Storage areas south of the 20th Parallel continued to be expanded. The Tien Luong storage area has been expanded and improved considerably since 31 March. A new transshipment point with large quantities of dispersed open storage, including almost 1,000 crates, was observed at

[REDACTED] This storage area is located along Route 110 about five miles west of its intersection with Route 1A near the Nguon Nay river, which serves Quang Khe, a key water transshipment facility. Other storage areas along Routes 137 and 15 and around Vinh reveal similar dispersed storage transshipment facilities. The increasing dispersal of supplies, particularly POL, is lessening the impact of the concerted air attack being directed against the larger storage facilities.

Road Repairs

7. Road repairs continued in the Panhandle. Extensive road maintenance along Route 101 near



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Dong Hoi was noted [redacted] Similar
repair and maintenance activity on routes 137 and
several other secondary roads which support truck
movements into southern Laos and DMZ areas have
also been noted [redacted]

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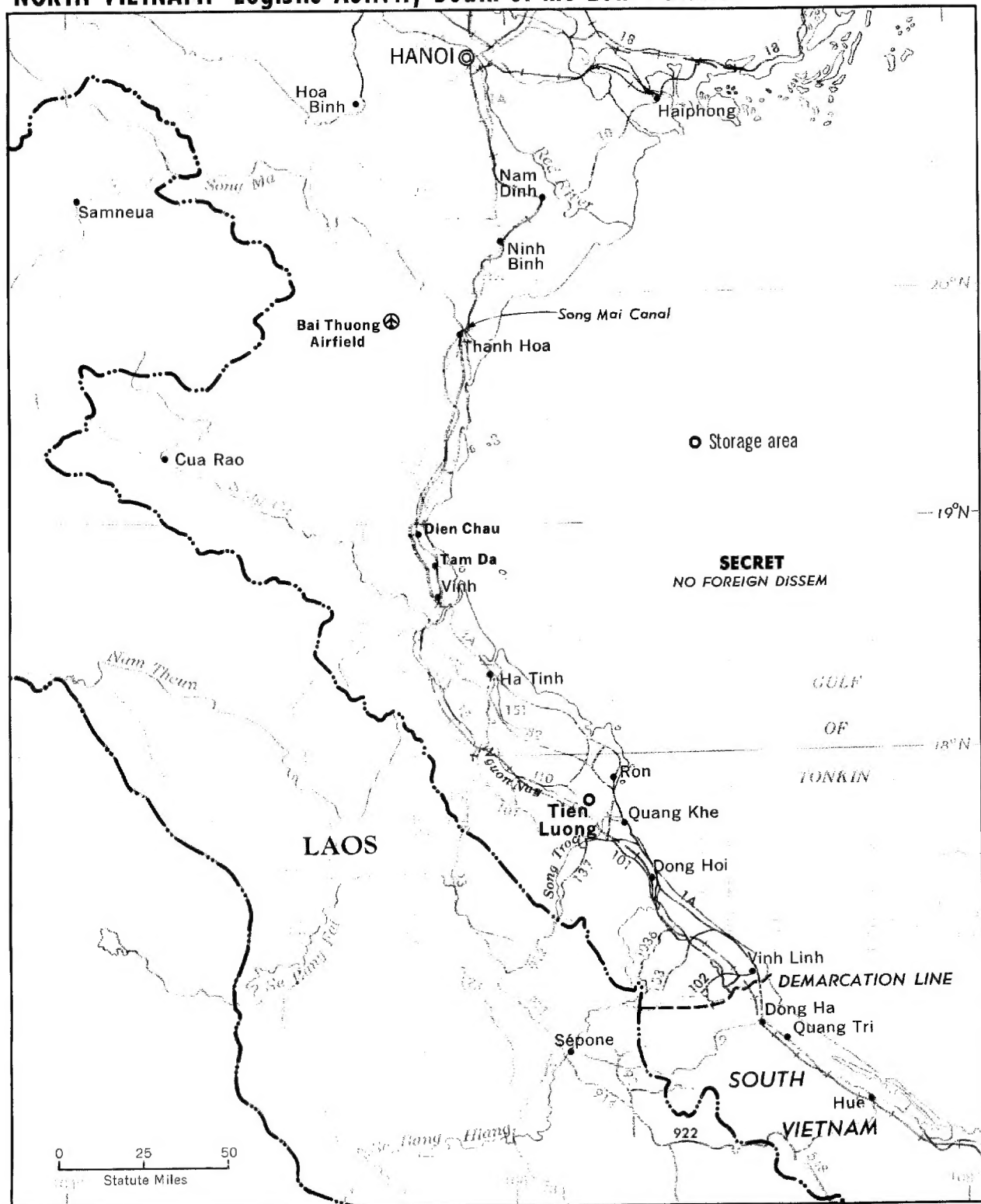
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NORTH VIETNAM: Logistic Activity South of the 20th Parallel



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